REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated August 12, 2004, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

In response to objection presented in section 1 of the Action, the title has been amended.

In response to the claim objections presented in section 2 of the Action, all of the claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency.

It is therefore requested that the objections to the Specification and claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 9 and 11 as unpatentable over Rokusek in view of Neukermans is respectfully traversed for the reason that the invention defined in the rejected claims is not suggested by any reasonable combination of the teachings of the applied references. Although claim 10 has not been rejected in this section of the Action, it is referred to at the bottom of page 3 of the Action and it will be assumed, for the sake of advancing prosecution, that claim 10 has been rejected on this ground.

The present invention is directed to a method, system and storage medium for correcting distortions due to variations in the instantaneous scanning speed. Basically, this is done by utilizing both the mode character height and the font ratio for each font to construct an appropriate correction factor. A correction of this type is not disclosed in either of the applied references, from which it follows that the claimed invention is not suggested by any combination of the teachings of those references.

Considering first the Rokusek reference, this reference deals with the problem of correcting an image

obtained by a hand held scanner where the obtained image is distorted due to *wavy movement* of the scanner along a scanned line of text. For this reason, the obtained text appears wavy in that the scanned letters do not lie on a single baseline, as exemplified by item 31 in Fig. 3b. The problem Rokusek seeks to solve is shifting letters in a vertical direction (perpendicular to the scanning direction) so as to bring all of the letters to a common baseline. (see item 37 in Fig. 3b). This is explicitly stated by Rokusek at col. 4 lines 28-36, to which the Examiner refers in section 3 of the Office Action.

While Rokusek mentions measuring "average height", the problem this reference is intended to solve is completely different from the problem solved by the method according to the present invention. The preamble to Claim 1 of the present application states: "the text image is distorted due to variability of the instantaneous scanning speed", This is because variations in the scanning speed cause some parts of the obtained image to appear compressed, while other parts appear stretched (see Fig. 5b of the present application). Furthermore, step (b) of claim 1 recites: "utilizing said mode character height and font ratio for constructing a correction factor in order to correct distortions in the text image due to scanning speed variations".

Rokusek nowhere mentions or even remotely hints at correcting an image distorted due to variations in the scanning speed, and obviously nowhere mentions or even hints at using a mode character height to correct this type of distortion, contrary to the assertion presented in the second paragraph on page 3 of the action.

Turning now to the Neukermans reference, this reference also does not mention or remotely hint at correcting the type

of distortion corrected by the method of the present invention. Quite the contrary, at col. 11, lines 28-35, to which the Examiner refers, Neukermans states that character recognition software can recognize characters even when the scanning speed is not "approximately the right speed" (and hence there is no need for special software to correct for distortion due to a scanning speed that is not "approximately the right speed"). Furthermore at col. 11, lines 19- 23, Neukermans states: "If the speed at which the document… moves along the guide.. is too slow or varies too much, an indicator…prompts the user to try again". Thus, Neukermans nowhere attempts to correct for distortion due to a variable scanning speed, and in the case that the scanning speed "varies too much", the user is instructed to simply repeat the scan.

In summary, neither Rokusek nor Neukermans mentions or even remotely hints at correcting a scanned text for distortion due to variability in the scanning speed as recited in Claim 1(b) of the present application. Therefore, a combination of these two references does not suggest the present invention.

With regard to Claim 2, the term "essentially vertical stack" is defined in the present application on page 3. It should be noted that an "essentially vertical stack" as defined in the specification is typically a portion of a character and not an entire character. At col. 4, lines 50-55, to which the Examiner refers, Rokusek mentions "symbol height and width". Contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, there is nothing in that portion of the reference specification that could possibly be construed as being

equivalent to the essentially vertical stack of the present application.

Claims 2 and 9 distinguish patentably over the applied references at least in view of their dependencies from claim 1, while claim 10 distinguishes over the applied references by its recitation that the program stored in the storage medium performs the same "utilizing" step as recited in claim 1, and claim 11 should be considered allowable at least in view of its dependency from claim 10.

The indication of allowability of claims 3-8, 12-15, 16 and 17 is noted with appreciation. It is believed that these claims are now in allowable condition, in view of the allowablility of the claims from which they depend.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that all of the objections and rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn, that claims 1-17 be allowed and that the Application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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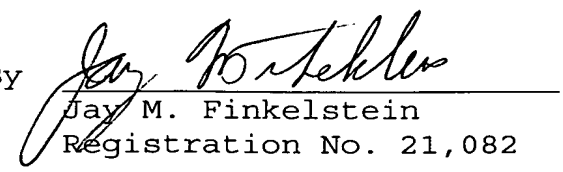
By 
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